

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this paper, claims 1, 18 and 19 are being amended. The remaining claims are unchanged.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 may be found in the passages corresponding to, for example, Fig. 7. In a non-limited embodiment, a transmission portion 72 is connected to an inner ring 43 and a displacement portion 70 connected to an outer ring 44.

Support for the amendments to claims 18 and 19 may be found in the passages corresponding to, for example, Figs. 9 and 10. In a non-limited embodiment, a scale 86 is arranged on an inner ring 43.

A. Claims 1-13, 15-17 and 20-24 Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner asserts that Omura (US2004/0070852) discloses the limitations of claim 1. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the above claim amendments and the following remarks.

Omura describes in paragraph [0161] that:

Three adjustment rods 341 protrude in the direction of 0°, 120°, and 240° from lens holder 340, and a vertical drive mechanism 343 is attached to each of the three adjustment rods 341, which pass through the side wall of lens barrel unit 342. A piezoelectric device or ultrasonic motor can be used as vertical drive mechanism 343.

Omura also describes in paragraph [0162] that:

Lens holder 340 is provided with X shafts 345 that extend in the +X direction and -X direction. X shafts 345 are pivoted by intermediate barrel 346, provided with Y shafts 347 that extend in the +Y direction and -Y direction. Y shafts 347 are pivoted by lens barrel unit 342, and rotational drive mechanisms 348 are attached to X shafts 345 and Y shafts 347.

However, Omura fails to disclose a feature of amended claim 1, namely, “a displacement portion connected to the frame member and configured to be displaced in a direction intersecting with an optical axis of the optical element by a driving force applied from outside the frame member.” Omura further fails to disclose another feature of amended claim 1, namely, “a transmission portion, connected to the holding member and the displacement portion, and configured

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to transmit displacement of the displacement portion to the holding member, wherein the transmission portion displaces the holding member in a direction substantially parallel to the optical axis of the optical element.”

Therefore, claim 1 as amended is not anticipated by Omura. Claims 2-13, 15-17 and 20-24 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-13, 15-17 and 20-24 is respectfully requested.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

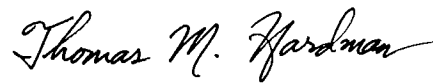
Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 14, 18 and 19 include allowable subject matter.

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C. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully asserts that all pending claims are allowable over the cited references, and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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